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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 006683

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H FOR W. MIELE  
USAID FOR LAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/18/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [CO](#) [OAS](#)

SUBJECT: OAS REP ASKS ABOUT DEMOBILIZATION FUTURE

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood; reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d)

Summary  
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1. (C) On July 8, the Ambassador met with Organization of American States (OAS) Peace Process Verification Coordinators Sergio Caramagna and Claudia Vargas at the latter's request. Caramagna told the Ambassador that he appreciated U.S. Congressional support for the GOC's paramilitary peace process thus far, and hoped support would continue with the implementation of the new Justice and Peace law. He said the OAS Secretary General would visit Colombia in August. Caramagna shared his concerns about the upcoming complex demobilization of the largest United Self-Defense Forces (AUC) bloc ) the Central Bolivar Bloc (BCB). The Ambassador promised ongoing political support for the OAS' verification work and stressed the importance of a meaningful implementation of the Justice and Peace law. End Summary.

Grateful for U.S. Support  
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2. (C) OAS Peace Process Verification Coordinator Sergio Caramagna visited the Ambassador on July 8 to provide an update on OAS verification of the demobilization process. He welcomed Representative Frank Wolf's support for the Colombian peace process and the OAS mission (septel), noting that Wolf had offered candid advice on steps needed to win broader support in the U.S. Congress. Caramagna raised concerns about the Senate appropriations mark up, which outlined new certification provisions necessary for U.S. demobilization assistance.

OAS Under New Management  
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3. (C) Caramagna said the OAS, under the new leadership of Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza, had noticeably

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improved. Insulza recently met with Caramagna both in private and in a larger meeting to discuss demobilization issues. He told Caramagna that he planned to travel to Colombia in August to see the verification mission. Insulza wanted the mission to be one of "his" programs, thus elevating it and potentially improving inter-organizational communication. He expressed concern about U.S. criticism of the Law for Justice and Peace and suggested that the opponents could harm the process before the law even came into effect.

Large Demobilization Taxes OAS Resources  
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4. (SBU) Caramagna expressed concerns about the upcoming demobilization of the Central Bolivar Bloc (BCB). He said the Bloc would be demobilizing in seven different locations, all of which would require OAS verification teams. He planned to redirect all verification personnel to those seven areas, but could not confirm that he would be able to cover the sites. The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the OAS' efforts, but advised Caramagna that the United States could not financially support the verification teams at this time, because of shortage of funds at year-end. He said the U.S. would continue to politically and publicly support the OAS, however.

Justice and Peace Law  
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5. (SBU) Caramagna raised the Justice and Peace law as a polemic issue being discussed by the international community. Many NGOs and others in the international community were focused on the myth of a perfect law. Caramagna stressed that the OAS shared the opinion that implementation was the key to the law's success. Secretary General Insulza told Caramagna in a private meeting hoped implementation made the process work. Although the NGOs were seeking an OAS condemnation of the project, the Inter-American Court was waiting to get a comprehensive analysis of the law before voicing an opinion.

